

Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 AGR-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04

OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 ITC-01

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R 262218Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9186

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

UNCLAS QUITO 1585

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, RP, EC

SUBJECT: GOE FOREIGN MINISTER PESANTES ON BANANAS

1. ON FEB. 24 GOE FOREIGN MINISTER ARMANDO PESANTES PRESENTED A REPORT TO THE CABINET ON HIS PARTICIPATION AS THE HEAD OF ECUADOR'S DELEGATION TO THE MANILA MEETING OF THE GROUP OF 77, FEB. 2-6. IN HIS REPORT HE MENTIONED THAT HE HAD HAD THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH THE PHILIPPINE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ARTURO TANCO, ON THE QUESTION OF BANANAS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE PESANTES REPORT, TANCO SAID THAT AT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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MOMENT THERE WERE DIFFICULTIES IN THE PATH OF THE PHILI-

PPINES' JOINING UPEB, BUT THAT THE COUNTRY WANTED TO COOPERATE WITH THE ORGANIZATION'S EFFORTS AND WAS SYMPATHETIC TO ITS GOALS. THE PHILIPPINES WISH TO EXPAND PRODUCTION TO SERVE THE GROWING JAPANESE MARKET BUT ARE CONCERNED ABOUT JAPANESE INVESTMENTS AND JAPANESE CONTROL OVER TRANSPORTATION AND MARKETING.

3. PESANTES TOLD TANCO THAT ALTHOUGH ECUADOR HAD NOT JOINED UPEB, THAT THE COUNTRY HAD "A MARKED TENDENCY TO ADHERE TO ITS CHARTER." TANCO AND PESANTES AGREED THAT BOTH THEIR COUNTRIES WOULD GO ALONG WITH UPEB ON QUESTIONS OF PRICE INCREASES IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET.

4. IN HIS PRESENTATION BEFORE THE CONFERENCE PESANTES RAISED THE POSSIBILITY THAT ECUADOR MIGHT, IN THE FUTURE, JOIN UPEB, BUT CAUTIONED THAT THIS WOULD FOLLOW THE COUNTRY'S GRADUAL INTEGRATION INTO COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS WITH THE ORGANIZATION.
BREWSTER

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